

REMARKS

The inventive method for producing an organic solvent dispersion of an intrinsically conductive polymer comprises a step of deionizing an aqueous colloidal dispersion of an intrinsically conductive polymer by the passing of liquid.

As to the passing of liquid in the above step, there is the following description in the specification [0014]:

Removal of cations is accomplished most effectively by the passing of liquid, that is, by passing an aqueous colloidal dispersion of the intrinsically conductive polymer through a column filled with an ion exchange resin. (Emphasis added)

The Office Action asserts that a step of treating a suspension with both anion and cation exchangers of Jonas corresponds to the inventive deionization step.

However, as shown in Example 1 of Jonas, the exchangers are added to the aqueous suspension of polythiophen⁺An⁻ ion complex. Therefore, Jonas fails to teach the inventive deionizing step by the passing of liquid.

In addition, the method of Jonas corresponds to Comparative Example 3 in the present specification. As described in Comparative Example 3, a uniform methanol dispersion was not obtained by this method.

On the other hand, as shown in Examples 1-13, the method of the present invention yields an organic solvent dispersion of an intrinsically conductive polymer which has a very low water content of below 1%.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art; see MPEP 2143.03. However, the combination of cited prior art fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Therefore, a

prima facie case of obviousness has not been established, and withdrawal of the instant rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, those skilled in the art cannot foresee or predict the inventive method and the effect thereof from the disclosure of the cited references.

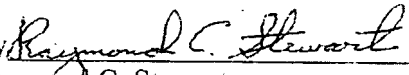
In view of the above discussion, it is believed that the present application, which recites the passing of liquid in the claims, defines a novel and non-obvious invention. Thus, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond C. Stewart Reg. No. 21,066 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Raymond C. Stewart
Registration No.: 21,066
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant